

### MR. CLANDSTONE'S SPEECH

## An Eloquent Appeal for Justice to Ireland.

# GREAT SCENE IN THE HOUSE.

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## The Premier's Bill to Secure Home Rule.

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Grand Greeting by Leaders and People to England's Foremost Orator—A Speech of Great Lucidity, Power, and Eloquence—The Statesman Explains the Political and Financial Features of his Bill—Mr. Parnell Voices Ireland's Thanks—His Eloquent Endorsement of the Premier—Messrs. Trevelyan and Finckh Oppose the Bill—The Debate will be Continued To-day.

LONDON, April 8.—The crowd began to assemble outside the palace yard about 7 o'clock in the morning. It amused itself for a while watching the members who came early to secure seats. At this time the greater number in the crowd were Irishmen, and they cheered every Parnellite who came along. As the day advanced the assemblage increased, until it filled up all the thoroughfares.

Mr. Gladstone left his residence in Downing street for the House of Commons at precisely

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

had passed. The tremendous, continued cheering with which he was greeted during the progress of the progress was accompanied by groans here and there, but the ill feeling was not manifested with sufficient strength to irritate the majority of the crowd or to attract Mr. Gladstone's attention.

When the Premier disappeared within the Parliament buildings the crowd melted away in confusion, and it had disappeared entirely within half an hour after Mr. Gladstone began his speech.

Before the Speaker entered, the floor of the House, the lobbies, the stairways, and galleries were in possession of a crowd of gentle and excited people, waiting for places to sit down. There were fifty times as many persons engaged in this struggle as could possibly be accommodated. In one group were seen at one time the Greek Ambassador, United States Minister Phelps, Cardinal Manning, Editor Burnard of the *Irish Times*, Japanese Ambassador, and Michael Davitt, the famous Irishman.

When the Speaker's gallery. They were rescued and enabled to get to the places secured for them by another door.

During a momentary lull in the confusion the House was suddenly startled by a wild cry. It was the cry of the Irish members who were first to catch sight of Mr. Gladstone sliding toward his seat from behind the Speaker's chair. The Irish members sprang to their feet as one man, and for several minutes the uproar

Mr. Gladstone's throat hit fierce cheer that Mr. T. P. O'Connor had feared interloping Tories might deprive of half its power was repeated till the whole building seemed to reverberate with its triumphant peal. Mr. Gladstone seated himself between Mr. Morley and Mr. Stansfeld, and he looked a trifle paler even than usual. The lines on his forehead appeared to have deepened since his recent illness. But his step as he entered was elastic and his bearing indicated that he felt the confidence in the success of his forthcoming speech.

As Mr. Gladstone was driving from Downing street to the House of Commons, the carriage being upset by the pressure of the crowd, the carriage was escorted by six mounted police, and a large number of people pressed forward and stopping the progress of the vehicle for some minutes. Mr. Gladstone, however, both before and after this extraordinary enthusiasm.

When Mr. Gladstone entered the speaker called upon Mr. Gladstone to take the floor. Mr. Gladstone rose and met with the most pronounced demonstration of approval in the House of Commons. He was evidently deeply impressed by the reception. When he finally withdrew from the scene, he was loudly applauded by the reporters. His voice, it was

the orator. But it was not that. Mr. Gladstone was in a state of amazement, caused, no doubt, by the fact that the speaker had come. This, however, quickly disappeared, and when he had spoken a few sentences he turned his head and looked at the speaker as he sat so motionless and so unassuming, the settled melancholy characteristic of the man's appearance, his age and his blind eyes. He was struck by the fact that he gave a very much exaggerated idea of the harshness of his voice, and the hearers' sympathies were so completely won that he was gratified on the part. But as soon as Mr. Gladstone steadied himself to his task, his voice grew more powerful, and he began to speak in a strong, ringing, monotonous, and captivating. Even the natural stiffness of old age (Mr. Gladstone was 72 years old) was not apparent in movement, an animation in manner, an energy and fire of utterance that are amazing in a man of his age. He seemed to care for nothing as anything but matters of course, so gradually and imperceptibly to the fire of the orator, and the eloquence of the speaker.

During the progress of his statement of the features of his bill there was little or no demor-

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